

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:AWOTTO

APPROVED BY: S/S-O:AWOTTO

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P 092131Z AUG 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 197297 TOSEC 200234

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT MANILA 11801 ACTION SECSTATE INFO CINCPAC
09 AUG 1976

QUOTE S E C R E T MANILA 11801

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY; MARCOS AID-MEMOIRE

REF: (A) MANILA 11733, (B) MANILA 11734

1. DURING CALL WHICH ADMIRAL GAYLER AND I MADE ON
PRESIDENT MARCOS MORNING AUGUST 7, MARCOS EXPANDED
SIGNIFICANTLY ON AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH HE HAD GIVEN TO
DEPSEC ROBINSON AUGUST 6.

2. MARCOS SAID THAT GOP FULLY UNDERSTANDS PROBLEM U.S.
EXECUTIVE HAS IN MAKING PROMISES OR COMMITMENTS WHICH
INVOLVE THE CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL
CONSENT. HE IS NOT, THEREFORE, ASKING FOR US TO GIVE HIM
A REPLY WHICH EXCEEDS THE CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY OF
THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

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3. HE ALSO RECOGNIZES THAT THERE MAY BE DIFFERENT TYPES OF U.S. ACTIONS EFFECTIVELY RESPONSIVE TO DIFFERENT TYPES OF AGGRESSIVE ATTACKS. HOWEVER, HE FELT EXECUTIVE BRANCH COULD, WITHIN ITS OWN AUTHORITY, UNDERTAKE DIPLOMATIC AND LOGISTIC ACTIONS AND COULD ASSURE THE GOP THAT THE U.S. WOULD NOT "UNDERCUT" PHILIPPINE POSITIONS IN THE MIDST OF A TERRITORIAL DISPUTE.

4. SINCE GAYLER HAD RECEIVED SIMILAR REFINEMENT OF AIDE MEMOIRE IN EARLIER CONVERSATION THAT SAME DAY WITH SECDEF ENRILE, HE ASKED WHETHER RESPONSE DESIRED COULD CONFINED ITSELF TO ASSURANCES OF POLITICAL AND LOGISTIC ACTION. MARCOS WAS NON-COMMITAL IN HIS REPLY TO THIS QUESTION.

5. COMMENT: WHILE BROAD LANGUAGE OF AIDE MEMOIRE ADMITS OF A SOMEWHAT MORE GENERALIZED RESPONSE, THE QUESTIONS POSED IN THE MDB PAPER ARE FAR MORE SPECIFIC, ESPECIALLY AS REGARDS ATTACKS ON PHILIPPINE PUBLIC VESSELS, ETC. THEREFORE, WHILE THESE LATEST COMMENTS FROM MARCOS HAVE MERIT IN REFINING THE AREA OF CONCERN, THEY WILL NOT RPT NOT PERMIT WASHINGTON TO AVOID FACING UP TO THE HARD QUESTIONS AS FAR AS THE SPECIFIC APPLICATION OF OUR RESPONSE TO THE PUTATIVE PROVOCATIONS CITED IN THE MDB PAPER. SULLIVAN UNQUOTE HABIB

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, COLLECTIVE SECURITY, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MILITARY AGREEMENTS, AIDE MEMOIRE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE197297
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:AWOTTO
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760306-0771
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760871/aaaackdh.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 MANILA 11733, 76 MANILA 11734
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY: MARCOS AID-MEMOIRE
TAGS: MARR, RP, US, (MARCOS, FERDINAND)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006